

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 1068

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH IMMIGRATION TO NORTHERN CYPRUS

1. LONG-SIMMERING BUT PUBLICLY UNSPOKEN CONCERNS WITHIN THE
TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY OVER THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL EFFECTS
OF TURKISH MAINLAND IMMIGRATION TO NORTHERN CYPRUS HAVE
RECENTLY SURFACED IN SERIES OF EXCHANGES IN PRO- AND ANTI-DENKTASH
PRESS. OPPOSITION HALKIN SESI, IN REPORTING RECENT VIOLENT
INCIDENT BETWEEN SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF ECEVIT IN CYPRIOT
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VILLAGE SETTLED BY MAINLANDERS, DECRIED PRESENCE OF EXTREMIST
ELEMENTS FROM TURKEY'S NATIONAL ACTION PARTY. THESE
ELEMENTS, THE PAPER CHARGED, ARE CAUSING BLOODSHED
THROUGHOUT TURKEY AND THREATENING TO DO SO IN CYPRUS.
DESPITE HOLDING "TFSC" CITIZENSHIP AND IDENTITY DOCUMENTS
AND DESPITE FACT THAT ECEVIT IS REGARDED BY TURKISH
CYPRIOTS AS THEIR LIBERATOR, THESE ELEMENTS CLING TO

BELIEVS THEY HELD IN TURKEY, OFFEND TURKISH CYPRIOTS BY DENOUNCING ECEVIT, AND ACT CONTRARY TO THE "CIVILIZED MANNER" OF TURKISH CYPRIOT POLITICS.

2. IN FOLLOW-UP ARTICLE APR 15, FORMER TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER AND GOC VICE PRESIDENT (1960-73) FAZIL KUCHUK DISCUSSED THE PRESENCE OF VIOLENT ELEMENTS IN THE NORTH AND WARNED AGAINST INTRODUCTION OF EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES. A SUBSEQUENT ARTICLE, BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN AUTHORED BY KUCHUK, CHARGED THAT THOUSANDS OF NAP SUPPORTERS HAD BEEN BROUGHT AND SETTLED IN CYPRUS BY DENKTASH'S NATIONAL UNITY PARTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING THEIR VOTES. THESE PEOPLE PRESENT A GREAT DANGER TO INTERNAL SECURITY, THE PAPER ALLEGED. THEY ARE ORGANIZING THEMSELVES IN CERTAIN AREAS, FORMING IDEOLOGICAL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES, PENETRATING THE SCHOOLS AND TRAINING INSTITUTES, AND USING "BRUTE FORCE."

3. PRO-DENKTASH ZAMAN (EDITED BY DENKTASH'S SON RAIF) SUBSEQUENTLY REFUTED CHARGES THAT DENKTASH'S PARTY HAD CONNIVED IN BRINGING RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS FROM TURKEY BUT, TACITLY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT SUCH ELEMENTS HAD COME TO NORTHERN CYPRUS, URGED SETTLERS FROM MAINLAND TO LEAVE THEIR SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL PARTIES BACK IN TURKEY. DROPPING ALL PRETENSE ABOUT THE REAL ISSUE AT STAKE, ZAMAN ALSO CHARGED THAT HALKIN SESI WAS NOT AGAINST THE IMMIGRANTS BECAUSE OF THEIR PARTY AFFILIATION BUT BECAUSE THEY CAME FROM TURKEY; CONCEDED THAT "TOURISTS" WHO COME FROM TURKEY SHOULD BE SUBJECTED TO STRICT CONTROLS TO AVOID GIVING HALKIN SESI AN OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK ALL SETTLERS;
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AND WARNED THAT INTRODUCTION OF LEFT OR RIGHT-WING IDEOLOGIES FROM TURKEY WOULD UNDERMINE THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY.

4. COMMENT:

(A) OLD DR. KUCHUK IS KNOWN FOR HIS HYPERBOLE AND SOUR GRAPES, AND THE HALKIN SESI ARTICLES UNDOUBTEDLY OVERSTATE BOTH THE PRESENCE OF RIGHT-WING SETTLERS AND THE EXTENT OF THE "THREAT." BUT THEY HAVE TOUCHED A SENSITIVE NERVE AND DO REFLECT WIDESPREAD CONCERN WITHIN THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY OVER THE INTRUSION OF ELEMENTS (I.E., MAINLANDERS FROM THE LESS DEVELOPED AREAS OF TURKEY) WHICH TURKISH CYPRIOTS FEEL ARE "LESS CIVILIZED", PRONE TO VIOLENCE, AND RESPONSIBLE FOR AN INCREASE IN CRIME (PRIMARILY THEFT).
(B) POLITICAL ATTITUDES AND IMPACT OF MAINLAND WORKER-IMMIGRANTS ON POLITICS REMAINS UNCLEAR. WHILE MANY (AND POSSIBLY THE MAJORITY) SEEM ON THE NATIONALISTIC AND CONSERVATIVE END OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, WE SUSPECT THAT IMMIGRANT ATTITUDES RANGE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT AND

THAT THE MUCH DISCUSSED SPREAD OF NATIONALIST CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS, AND ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTH IS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THE PRODUCT OF TURKISH CYPRIOT RIGHT-WINGERS WHO FEAR THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT YOUTH WILL BE TAINTED BY LEFTIST INFLUENCES IN TURKEY. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE UNDERSTAND THAT SEVERAL MAINLANDERS STOOD AS CANDIDATES IN THE MAY 75 LOCAL ELECTIONS, THAT SETTLERS WITH VOTING PRIVILEGES IN THE JUNE 75 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS HEAVILY SUPPORTED DENKTASH'S PARTY, AND THAT THERE HAVE SO FAR BEEN TWO ABORTIVE ATTEMPTS BY MAINLANDERS IN THE NORTH TO FORM A SEPARATE POLITICAL PARTY.

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(C) AS THE ZAMAN ARTICLES SUGGEST, "TFSC" AUTHORITIES ARE SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE ON THE ISSUE. THEY CANNOT VERY WELL CRITICIZE THE SETTLERS AND THEY KNOW THAT THE UNDERPOPULATED

NORTH NEEDS ADDITIONAL MANPOWER TO WORK THE FIELDS, STAFF HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS, AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL SKILLS IN SHORT SUPPLY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE AUTHORITIES ARE WELL AWARE OF THE COMMUNITY'S FEELINGS TOWARD THE UNSKILLED MAINLAND IMMIGRANTS AND ARE UNDER PRESSURE TO TIGHTEN UP CONTROLS AT PORTS OF ENTRY TO WEED OUT DRIFTERS AND OTHER UNDESIRABLES WHO COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS. (AUTHORITIES BELIEVE, FOR EXAMPLE, CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT A RECENT SERIES OF THEFTS AND A THEFT-MUNDER, THE FIRST ANYONE CAN RECALL HERE, WAS CARRIED OUT BY A GANG OF MAINLANDERS WHO HAD SLIPPED IN AND OUT OF THE NORTH UNDETECTED.)

(D) ORGANIZED IMPORTATION OF IMMIGRANT-AGRICULTURAL WORKERS FROM TURKEY APPARENTLY ENDED OVER A YEAR AGO, AND THERE ARE NOW NO INDICATIONS THAT IT WILL BE RESUMED. HOWEVER, THERE CONTINUES TO BE A LIVELY MOVEMENT IN AND OUT OF FAMA-GUSTA OF "TOURISTS" WHO COME TO CYPRUS FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD, WORK A WHILE, AND THEN RETURN TO TURKEY.

(E) BASED ON FRAGMENTARY INFORMATION IN THE PRESS AND CONVERSATIONS WITH VARIOUS TURKISH CYPRIOTS, OFFICIALS AND OTHERWISE, OUR BEST (ROUGH) ESTIMATE OF THE NORTH'S POPULATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

TURKISH CYPRIOT POPULATION AS OF JULY 1974	---	100,000
TURKISH CYPRIOTS WHO HAVE RETURNED SINCE 1974	---	10-12,000
MAINLAND SETTLERS	---	15-17,000
WORKERS IN CYPRUS ON TOURIST STATUS	---	15-16,000
TOTAL POPULATION	---	140-145,000

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